The American Ferret Association, Inc.

Presents

A Two-Day Advanced Course

Management of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

October 6-7, 2006
Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree
101 Radisson Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Your Symposium Support

Registration/Advertising Information:

Vickie McKimmey, Symposium Registrar

Phone: 301-898-1568
Fax: 240-358-0673

afaevents@earthlink.net

AFA

Phone: 1-888-FERRET-1

afa@ferret.org

This Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Pamela Slack, DVM, who died in an airplane accident on May 4, 1999. As an AFA professional member, Dr. Slack chaired several past AFA veterinary symposiums and practiced Exotic Medicine at the Alexandria Animal Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. She owned many ferrets and was a savior to many more.
Purpose

The American Ferret Association is an organization devoted to the health and welfare of ferrets. We want our veterinarians to give the best care and know the most about these special animals. That’s why AFA is sponsoring this in-depth veterinary symposium, with the following goals in mind:

• To help veterinarians meet the growing demand for quality ferret care.

• To encourage new practitioners to learn more about ferrets.

• To provide continuing education for experienced ferret veterinarians.

This two-day symposium is a must for those who are treating ferrets or who plan to treat ferrets in their practices. There are an estimated 10 million ferrets in the U.S. today, making them the third most popular interactive companion animal. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students and allied health professionals will be interested in the range of topics as well as the in-depth panel discussions that will address the practitioner’s questions about this fascinating carnivore species. Learn everything from the basics to cutting edge technology. Find out about new approaches to diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Participate in discussions on various ways of treating malignancies in ferrets.
Friday Session Schedule

** Limited to first 20 registrants
** Limited to veterinarians and veterinary students

7:00am  Registration Opens
7:30am-8:30am  Continental Breakfast
8:30am-8:45am  Welcome & Opening Remarks
8:45am-9:45am  Session I: Ferret Cardiology
9:45am-10:00am  Refreshment Break
10:00am-11:30am  Session II: Introduction to Ferret Ultrasound
11:30am-1:00pm  Luncheon
1:00pm-5:15pm  Session III: Ferret Ultrasound Wet Lab
5:15pm  Closing Remarks

Friday 6:30pm to 9:30pm
Meet and Greet Reception in Exhibit Hall (Cash Bar)
Saturday Registration Check In
**Saturday Session Schedule**

7:00am  **Registration Opens**

7:00am-8:00am  Continental Breakfast

8:00am-8:15am  Welcome & Opening Remarks

8:15am-9:30am  **Session I:**  Emergency Medicine & Critical Care

9:30am-9:45am  Refreshment Break

9:45am-11:00am  **Session II:**  Ferret Oncology Overview

11:00am-11:15am  Refreshment Break

11:15am-12:15pm  **Session III:**  Studying Ferret Behavior

12:15pm-1:30pm  Luncheon

1:30pm-2:45pm  **Session IV:**  Update on Adrenal Gland Disease

2:45pm-3:00pm  Refreshment Break

3:00pm-4:00pm  **Session V:**  Disseminated Idiopathic Myositis – An Emerging Disease

4:00pm-4:15pm  Refreshment Break

4:15pm-5:45pm  **Session VI:**  Gastrointestinal & Hepatic Diseases

5:45pm-6:00pm  Closing Remarks

6:00pm  Conference Adjourns
Speaker Faculty

Anne K. G. Bazilwich, DVM – Symposium Chair

Dr. Bazilwich is a founding board member and President of the Green Mountain Animal Sanctuary and originating member of the Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force. She is the Vermont liaison for Bioterrorism and Zoonotic Disease Awareness and Prevention, directed by the CDC and CFSPH and a frequent spokesperson for the Vermont VMA. Dr. Bazilwich frequently lectures about ferrets and other topics at veterinary and community venues.

Natalie Antinoff, DVM, DIPL ABVP (Avian)

Founder and Director of Gulf Coast Avian and Exotics, Dr. Antinoff has authored numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed articles. She is a consultant for the online Veterinary Information Network small mammal board and she has been an instructor for an online ABVP preparatory course. Dr. Antinoff received the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Non-traditional Species Practitioner of the Year Award.

Mark Burgess, DVM

Owner of the Southwest Animal Hospital where 95% of the caseload is exotics, Dr. Burgess is a frequent lecturer and Exotic Pet Medicine course instructor. He has also independently described many malignant and pathological conditions of ferrets, including the pathogenesis of some megaesophagus cases in ferrets. Dr. Burgess has received research grants from both the Oregon Ferret Association and the AFA.

Michelle H. Fabiani, DVM, DIPL ACVR

After receiving her DVM in 1993, Dr. Fabiani worked in small animal practices for six years prior to pursuing a career in radiology. She was board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Radiology in 2003 and has since practiced at Gulf Coast Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging, where she had previously completed her three-year residency. Dr. Fabiani has special interests in echocardiography, exotic animal imaging, cross sectional imaging and interventional radiology techniques.

Jörg Mayer, Dr Med Vet MSc

Well-published author and lecturer, Dr. Mayer is the Director of Exotic Services and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental & Population Health at the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. He has served as a visiting scientist at the United States Environmental Protection Agency and as the veterinary member of an American research team, he has conducted field research on wild and captive tree kangaroos in Papua, New Guinea.
Katrina Ramsell, PhD, DVM

Dr. Ramsell holds a PhD in Neuropharmacology; J. Neuroendocrine, Neurosci Lett, J. Neutocytology, Soc Neurosci Abstr, Brain Res Bull and FASEB have published her research articles. With colleagues, Drs. Michael Garner and Mark Bugess, Dr. Ramsell described and named Disseminated Idiopathic Myositis in ferrets. She is a frequent presenter and active member of the Cascade Ferret Network, House Rabbit Society, Oregon Ferret Association, Great Lakes Ferret Association and the AFA.

Valerie W. Staton, MS, PhD

Dr. Stanton is a Professor of Psychology at Ohio Dominican University specializing in animal behavior and biopsychology and she is a frequent speaker and author; JAVMA has published her articles. Her current research interests focus on ferret behavior and she is a member of the Animal Behavior Society and the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behaviorists.

Robert A. Wagner, VMD

Dr. Wagner holds joint positions at the University of Pittsburgh as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources and a Research Assistant Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine’s Department of Medicine. He also has an exotic animal practice at Fox Chapel Animal Hospital and he is the Attending Veterinarian for Zivic Labs. With more than twenty-five years of exotic animal experience, Dr. Wagner has a fascinating job history, including veterinary positions at the Pittsburgh Zoo and National Aviary of Pittsburgh.

Curriculum

Sessions for this symposium are set up to offer a selection of fundamental and in-depth instruction so that veterinarians entering at any level of experience will gain useful information.

This course has been submitted (but not yet approved) for 13.5 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions which recognize AAVSB’s RACE approval; however, participants should be aware that some boards have limitations on the number of hours accepted in certain categories and/or restrictions on certain methods of delivery of continuing education.

An abundance of ferret information will be freely distributed from the American Ferret Association display tables in the form of handouts. During our scheduled breaks you can enjoy the refreshments while visiting our informative display. Be sure to also visit our exhibitors in the exhibit hall. Exhibits will be open starting Friday at 9:00 am through Saturday at 3:00 pm.
Friday—A Wet Laboratory: Ultrasound of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

Session I: Ferret Cardiology: A complete overview of ferret cardiac diseases, including dilated cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and acquired valvular disease, coupled with diagnostic evaluation strategies and treatment protocols. Ultrasound becomes essential in differentiating between the cardiac diseases and in tailoring an appropriate treatment plan. Standard M-mode measurements include chamber dimensions, wall thickness and indices of systolic function.

Session II: Introduction to Ferret Ultrasound: A basic introduction to ultrasound, including instrumentation (“knobology”), which will enable each participant to utilize the equipment to its full potential. Artifacts, such as reverberation, mirror image, slice thickness, refraction and shadowing will be discussed to help ensure that accurate, not artifactual, diagnoses are made. Then, a presentation about ferret ultrasound specifics that will focus on the normal ultrasound appearance of major organs, plus hints on how to find certain organs, i.e. the adrenal glands. A discussion and demonstration of comparison images of common diseases in ferrets seen via ultrasound will follow.

Session III: Ferret Ultrasound Wet Lab: After the lectures, veterinary registrants will several hours to practice ultrasound techniques on ferret volunteers with professional supervision and guidance. There will be approximately one ultrasound machine per two veterinary registrants.

Saturday—An Advanced Course
Management of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

Session I: Emergency Medicine & Critical Care: A review of the stabilization, diagnostic work up and intervention of emergency conditions; plus fluid/electrolyte therapy and supportive care, including the mistakes you can avoid.

Session II: Ferret Oncology Overview: A discussion of neoplastic diseases in ferrets, including diagnostic and treatment strategies, along with ancillary treatments to help you better care for these patients; plus, an overview of lymphoma in ferrets with preliminary information.
Session III: Studying Ferret Behavior: A review of literature, experimental and “real world” observations of ferret behavior, along with intervention strategies for clinicians and pet owners.

Session IV: Clinical Workup of Adrenal Disease: A discussion of the diagnostic evaluation of adrenal gland disease and why we need to include more ultrasound exams; plus, a review of treatment options and how to determine the best protocol.

Session V: Disseminated Idiopathic Myositis: Discovered in 2003, a discussion of the clinical and pathological correlations, epidemiology and outcomes of cases seen by one of the original investigators.

Session VI: Gastrointestinal & Hepatic Diseases: The diagnostic and treatment possibilities for ulcers and megaesophagus, differential diagnoses of diarrhea, hepatitis, GI neoplasia and more; plus, important inter-relationships between GI and hepatic pathology.

Advertising

Advertising is available in the proceedings book. All ad copy must be camera ready – NO colored business cards please. Ad copy must be received by September 1, 2006. Please send ad copy to the address on the registration form.

A: Full Page 7.5" w x 10" h $250.00
B: Half Page horizontal 7.5" w x 4.5" h $150.00
C: Half Page vertical 3.65" w x 10" h $150.00
D: Quarter Page 3.65" w x 4.5" h $100.00
E: Business Card 3.65" w x 2" h $ 50.00

AFA Membership Fees

One Year Veterinary Membership $ 50.00
One Year Technician/Student Membership $ 30.00
Register Early and Save!

(AFA reserves the right to limit the number of non-licensed veterinarians, due to space considerations.)

When you register, **become an AFA member and receive:**
- Discount on symposium registration
- **American Ferret Report** – AFA’s Quarterly Newsletter
- Veterinary Mailings – with special medical alerts, new products and other health news
- Notice of AFA events, special news items for you and your clients
- Discounts on AFA products and events
- Access to AFA Health Affairs Committee membership and much more!

Registration Fees:

Registration fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast and lunch for that day.

**Friday Session Lectures & Wet Lab (6.5 hours CE):**  
**Limited to first 20 veterinarian and veterinary student registrants**

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**Saturday Session Lectures (7.0 hours CE)**

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AFA Non-Member Fee  
Additional fee  
$ 75.00

Late Registration Fee  
Additional fee  
$ 50.00  
(After August 15, 2006)

Confirmation & Accommodations

Confirmations will be sent out as registrations are received. The symposium hotel is the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree, 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

Reservations: (412) 922-8400  
Reservations ID: AFA Ferret Veterinary Symposium  
Room Rates: $79.00 single/double plus tax  
Internet address: http://www.radisson.com/pittsburghpa_greentree
Registration Form

Name

Preferred mailing address  Please check  □ Home  □ Business

City  State  ZIP Code

Home phone  Business phone  Fax number

E-mail address

Registration Fees
Prices include tax and service charge

☐ Friday Session Lectures & Wet lab
  This fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast and lunch for Friday.
  ** Limited to first 20 vet/vet student registrants
  Veterinarian $275.00
  Student $150.00

☐ Saturday Session Lectures
  This fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast and lunch for Saturday.
  Veterinarian $175.00
  Student/Technician $100.00

☐ Late Registration Fee, add $50
  (after August 15, 2006)
  $50.00

☐ Non-AFA Member Fee, add $75
  $75.00

☐ AFA Membership Fee
  For One Year Veterinarian add $50
  For One Year Student/Technician add $30
  Veterinarian $50.00
  Student/Technician $30.00

☐ Proceedings Book Advertising
  See page 9 for advertising rates
  Circle:  A  B  C  D  E

☐ Charitable Donation
  $250, $100, $50, $25, Other
  (Donations may be tax-deductible for those who itemize.)
  Total Amount:

Method of Payment to guarantee registration:

☐ Check made payable to AFA  ☐ American Express  ☐ Discover  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Visa

Card Number  Expiration Date (MM/YY)  VCode

Name listed on card

Please send this form and payment to:
  AFA  Fax Number: (240) 358-0673
  c/o Symposium Registrar
  11018 Powell Road
  Thurmont, MD 21788
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